

ADULT AND SENIOR CARE UPDATE

June 2008

This is the second issue of the *Adult and Senior Care Update* for 2008. We appreciate your support in sharing these updates with members of your organization and others interested in adult and senior care issues.



A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. JORDAN

We are saddened to report the loss of William “Bill” Jordan, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB), who passed away suddenly at home on May 1, 2008. Bill had recently retired after devoting over 30 years to the Department. As reported in the March 2008 *Adult and Senior Care Update*, he had graciously agreed to serve as Acting Chief of TAPB when Barbara Rooney departed. Over the course of his many years with the Department, Bill worked in and contributed to virtually every aspect of CCLD, including field operations and in several management and Career Executive Assignment positions. Bill was instrumental in developing CCLD’s Caregiver Background Check Bureau, a critical component in ensuring the safety of facility residents and staff. Bill also served with distinction on the National Association for Regulatory Administration Board of Directors for several years. Bill was always ready, willing, and able to meet whatever challenges were presented to him.

NEW EMERGENCY/DISASTER RESOURCE INFORMATION **Fire Notices and Resources**

California’s fire season has started early this year. In the past week, hundreds of forest fires have ignited and some providers and residents have been under voluntary or mandatory orders to evacuate their homes. To provide current, up-to-date fire safety information, CCLD is pleased to announce our partnership with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the [Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](http://www.fire.ca.gov) (CAL FIRE).

Links to both departments have been added to the CCLD webpage. The OES webpage (www.oes.ca.gov/) includes statewide emergency and disaster tracking technology through the Emergency Digital Information System (EDIS). EDIS provides the most current information available on emergency/disaster-related conditions including fires. CAL FIRE’s webpage (www.fire.ca.gov/index_incidents.php) provides regional information on fires, disasters, air quality, and road closures. Both websites also provide information on how to protect residents/clients and property.

CCL INFORMATION RELEASE NO. 2008-01 – RCFE Regulation Reformat

CCL Information Release No. 2008-01 was issued by CCLD on May 2, 2008. The Information Release provided notification of the changed sequence and organization of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFE) regulations. These changes do not affect existing requirements, conditions, prescriptions, or other regulatory elements. Specifically, the regulations have been sequentially reorganized—for greater clarity and ease of use—and include new articles, renamed articles, and renamed sections. The new regulations are in effect. To review Information Release No. 2008-01 in its entirety, click on the following link: www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/200801.pdf. We are working diligently with our Office of Regulation Development to post these new regulations on our CCLD website. Further, we are working internally to have the regulations loaded onto our Field Automation System.

HEAT TIPS FOR LICENSEES

This summer may again prove to be a particularly hot one for many parts of California. We all know that exposure to extreme heat is potentially dangerous. It can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death—with the very young, the elderly and those with chronic health conditions being most at risk. To help licensees keep clients/residents, facility staff and visitors safe during the summer months, we are attaching a copy of “Tips for Licensees to Prevent Heat-Related Illnesses,” the handout we initially released in response to the July 2006 heat wave.

- The English version of this handout is available on the CCLD website at www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/heat.pdf.
- The Spanish version is also available on our website at www.cclld.ca.gov/res/pdf/heatSP.pdf.

In addition, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) have important heat-related information posted on their websites.

- To access heat-related information and tips from CDPH, please see the main CDPH website at www.cdph.ca.gov.
- The OES website, which is located at www.oes.ca.gov, also contains a wealth of information, including hot-weather tips for taking care of pets and links to utilities and other resources.

WEST NILE VIRUS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This is a reminder to licensees that, with summer upon us, it’s critical to be aware of steps to take to reduce the chances that clients/residents, facility staff and visitors will be exposed to the threat of West Nile virus (WNV). WNV is a potentially serious disease that is most often spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. While most infected people either have no symptoms or have flu-like symptoms, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk for serious illness. To help prevent WNV in your facility, please keep the following general tips in mind:

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes can hatch in as little as a half-inch of water.
- Keep mosquitoes outside by installing or repairing both window and door screens.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent containing ingredients such as DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Wear long pants and sleeves outdoors when practical.
- Try to avoid being outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.
- If you find a dead bird, please report it to the California West Nile Virus and Dead Bird Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD, or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For additional information about WNV, including symptoms, please see the WNV fact sheet prepared by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/wnv_factsheet.htm. The Spanish version of this fact sheet can be accessed at: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/spanish/wnv_factsheet_spanish.htm. Copies of both fact sheets are also attached to this *Update*.

Finally, information about WNV is also available on the CCLD website at www.cclld.ca.gov, under Other Health-Related Information.

HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES ON SENIOR HEALTH ISSUES AND HOUSING

- The Medical Library Association (MLA), an organization of librarians who deal with health and medical information on a daily basis, has compiled a list of its 100 most trusted websites. In the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section of its own website, the MLA categorizes the list, including a category for senior health issues. To access "Senior Health Websites You Can Trust," click on the following link: www.caphis.mlanet.org/consumer/seniorhealth.html.
- The California HealthCare Foundation and the University of California, San Francisco, have jointly created a website with tips for choosing adult day care, nursing homes, hospice and other senior care facilities. To access "California Nursing Home Search," click on the following link: www.calnhs.org/.

RESIDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR \$300 TAX REBATE

The federal government may owe nursing home and assisted living residents some extra spending money, thanks to President Bush's Economic Stimulus Package. Those residents who receive Social Security, veteran's benefits or Railroad Retirement benefits of \$3,000 or more will be eligible for a \$300 tax rebate. The \$300 tax credit will not be applied to the resident's cost of care. It is the resident's money to spend as he or she chooses.

To apply for the tax rebate, residents or their tax preparer should complete the 1040 or 1040A tax form. The only information that needs to be on the form is the filer's name, address, social security number, filing status (married, single, etc.), and the amount of benefits received in 2007. Individuals who received less than \$3,000 must file an amended return using the 1040X. This filing should include social security benefits in

order to qualify. All forms should have "Stimulus Payment" written across the top. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, (800) 906-9887, or the AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, (888) 227-7669, will provide free assistance to seniors. Additional information is available at www.irs.gov.

SUMMARY

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Robert Pate, Acting Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch, at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at www.cclid.ca.gov for copies of *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Ben Partington for

JO FREDERICK
Deputy Director
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures